

Simplified key to coral genera in the wildlife trade (continued)

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|--|----|------------------------|
| 19. a. corallites arranged in rows forming a series of meandering valleys separated by ridges | 20 | Go To: |
| b. corallites are round or oval, pore-like or raised, with distinct separation between individual corallites | 28 | |
| 20. a. walls of meandering valleys are not connected or shared SEE ALSO PAGE 32 (colony flabellate) | 21 | |
| b. adjacent valleys share the same wall (colony meandroid) | 22 | |
| 21. Sinuous, meandering corallum with series of branches or rows of corallites and | | |
| a. septa thin and closely spaced; tentacles with crescent, bulbous or T-shaped tips .. | | <i>Euphyllia</i> |
| b. septa thick, exsert and widely spaced; bulbous ectodermal vesicles | | <i>Plerogyra</i> |
| c. septa thick, exsert and widely spaced; vesicles smaller; retractable | | <i>Physogyra</i> |
| d. colony narrow with thin fragile walls and septa; columella extends along center as single elongate septa | | <i>Nemenezophyllia</i> |
| e. bilaterally symmetrical, 1-3mouths in valley; prominent ridge encircling margin SEE PAGE 36-37 | | <i>Trachyphyllia</i> |
| f. straight edged septa forming v-shaped valleys, large fleshy oral disc with tentacles encircling the margin; unable to completely retract SEE PAGE 27 | | <i>Catalaphyllia</i> |

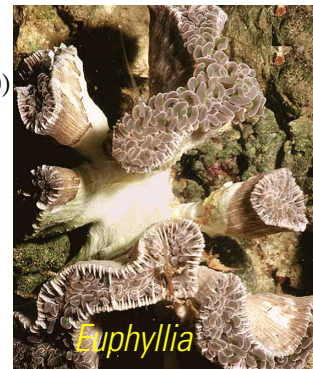
Euphyllia (1999: 119,000 pieces in trade, over 106,000 live)

- “Anchor and hammer corals” consist of meandering flabellate plates attached at their base; *Euphyllia* also has a phaceloid growth form (pp 19-20)
- septa thin, exsert, closely spaced (approx. 7 septa/mm); often obscured by tentacles; septa alternate in size and may be exsert
- colonies have distinctive bulbous, kidney or T-shaped tentacles used to identify these corals to species

E. glabrescens and *E. cristata* have tubular tentacles with small knobs or balls of different color at tips of tentacles.

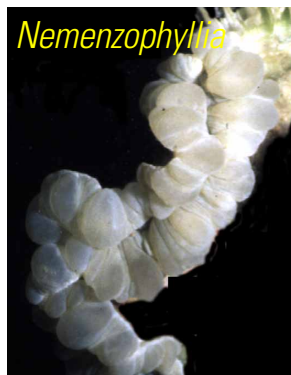
E. divisa has tubular tentacles that branch at the end and have paired knobs.

E. ancora has distinctive T-shaped tentacles.



Nemenezophyllia turbida (1999: over 10,000 pieces in trade, most live)

- “Fox Corals” are thin and fragile; colonies flattened, contorted, vertical sheets < 1 cm wide, but up to 15 cm in height
- corallites in a single, meandering row at the branch end
- septa widely-spaced, symmetrical and exsert
- columella extends down center of valley as a single elongate septa
- large, fleshy oral disc folds over the ridge-like skeleton; oral disc retracts if disturbed



Plerogyra (1999: 36,000 pieces in trade, over 35,000 live)

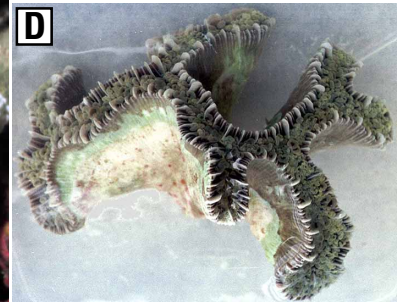
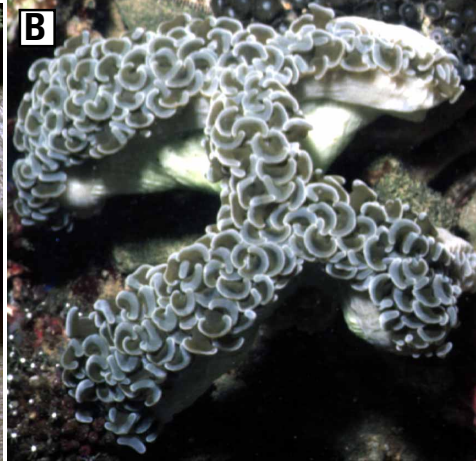
- “Bubble Corals” are semi-massive corals with grape-sized vesicles covering their surface during the day; vesicles are circular or oval; they may be elongate with small protrusions
- septa thick, very exsert and widely-spaced (approx. 2 septa/mm), arranged in two adjacent parallel rows on opposing sides of the corallite

Physogyra (1999: 9,700 pieces in trade, most live)

- “Bubble or Pineapple Corals” have small vesicles (L); vesicles retract if disturbed
- tentacles expand from base of vesicle at night
- septa very exsert, widely spaced (2 septa/mm); valleys are narrow and septa are shorter than *Plerogyra*



- Euphyllia* ■ common name: Anchor Coral, Hammer Coral
 9 species ■ flabellate, flabello-meandroid or phaceloid
 A-D) tentacles always extended, but can retract
 C-D) septa smooth-edged; may be exsert



*Nemanzophyllia turbida***

- common name: Fox Coral
 ■ colonies flabellate

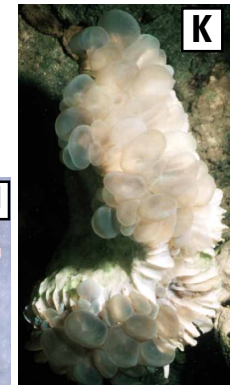
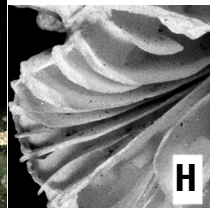
***N. turbida* may be synonymous with *Plerogyra turbida*



- E) large fleshy mantle
 F) corallum thin,
 < 2 cm wide
 F) septa exsert, fragile,
 easily broken

Plerogyra

- common name: Bubble Coral; 3 species**
 ■ colonies flabellate, phaceloid or flabello-meandroid
 G-K) large vesicles extended in day
 H, J) septa large, smooth-edged and exsert



Physogyra

- common name: Bubble Coral or Pineapple Coral; 2 species
 ■ colonies flabellate or meandroid; may have a massive morphology



- L,P) small vesicles cover colony
 N,O) vesicles retract when disturbed
 tentacles expand at night
 M) septa large, smooth-edged,
 exsert and widely spaced

